

Newburn Urban District Council
(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL
REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1949



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1950.



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Health Committee Members

Chairman :

Councillor JOSEPH WILLIAM BAIN

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor RICHARD BROWELL, J.P.

Councillor GEORGE BELL

„ GEORGE EDWARD COWELL

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Medical Officer of Health :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

J. T. W. ROBSON, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN CORNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

GEORGE G. OXLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
CERT. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(Resigned 31-5-49).

JOHN HATTON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Appointed 1-9-49).

Clerk :

Miss L. SNAITH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health *for the Year ended December 31st, 1949*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Newburn Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work of your district for the year ended December 31st, 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION.

There is an increase of 190 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population, from 21,350 in 1948 to 21,540 in 1949.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population shows a decline, being 18·11 in 1949 and 19·62 in 1948. There were 29 fewer births in 1949 than in 1948. The rate for England and Wales was 16·7.

The still birth rate shows a decrease from 0·66 per 1,000 population in 1948 to 0·42 in 1949. There were 14 still births in 1948 and 9 in 1949.

There were 10 illegitimate births in 1949 compared with 13 in 1948.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

This rate shows a slight increase from 11·2 per 1,000 of the population in 1948 to 11·32 in 1949. There were 244 deaths in 1949 compared with 241 in 1948. The rates for England and Wales were 10·8 for 1948 and 11·7 in 1949.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 30·8. This figure shows an increase from that of 1948, which was 28·64. The increase in the rate was caused by the decline in the total number of births in 1949.

The rate for England and Wales was 34·0 in 1948 and 32·0 in 1949, so that the rate for the Urban District is still below that of the country generally.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1949 and the same in 1948. Of these 12 deaths in 1949, 10 of them occurred during the first month of life (Prematurity and Debility from birth, 5 ; Cranial Hæmorrhage, 2 ; Atelectasis and Asphyxia, 2 ; Broncho Pneumonia, 1).

The infantile mortality rate has shown a remarkable decline generally, except for a few variations, in the last 10 years. As recently as 1941 the rate for the district was 90·6 and that for England and Wales was 59·0 per 1,000 births.

Comparing the causes of infant deaths for the years 1941 and 1949, there were 34 in 1941 as against 12 in 1949.

The number of neo-natal deaths (i.e., deaths occurring during the first month of life) is fairly constant for the two years, being 13 in 1941 and 10 in 1949.

Infection plays a prominent part in the 21 deaths in 1941 occurring after one month and up to 12 months old. Thirteen of these deaths were regarded as primarily due to infection (Bronchitis and Broncho Pneumonia, 13 ; Meningitis, 1 ; Gastro-enteritis, 1) and in others it may have been a potent contributing factor.

In 1949 there was one death from Broncho Pneumonia and one from Gastro-enteritis in the same age group (see separate table).

The use of the sulpha-drugs and penicillin and an increasingly high standard in the care of mothers and young children has resulted in this dramatic fall in the infant mortality rate, but there still remains the “ hard core ” of the neo-natal deaths, which is similar in both years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths registered in 1949, as in 1948. The figure for England and Wales in 1949 was 0·98 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS. (Under 2 Years)

There was one death from this cause, giving a rate of 2·56 compared with the rate of 3·0 per 1,000 live births for the country generally.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart and circulatory diseases continue to head this list. The number of deaths is 109 in 1949, giving a decrease of 13 as compared with 1948.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 33 in 1949, compared with 43 in 1948.

Cancer of the Breast decreased by ....	....	....	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum decreased by....			9
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Uterus increased by....			3
Cancer of "all other sites" decreased by ....	....	....	1

There has been a decided increase in deaths from Respiratory Diseases (other than Tuberculosis). There were 39 deaths in 1949 and 19 in 1948. The increase is mainly in female deaths from Bronchitis, 12 more female deaths from this cause being registered in 1949 than in 1948. There was a slight increase in deaths from Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases. Deaths from Influenza increased to 4 in 1949 from 1 in 1948. The number of deaths from Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum increased to 5 in 1949 from 1 in 1948, and deaths classed as from Other Digestive Diseases increased to 8 in 1949 from 5 in 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The mortality rates for the pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms of the disease again show a slight decrease on those of the previous year, i.e., 0.46 per 1,000 civilian population in 1949, compared with 0.65 in 1948. The rate for England and Wales was 0.45 in 1949. Since 1947 there has been a slight progressive decline in the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (see separate table). The number of new cases notified during the year has increased to 40 in 1949 from 33 in 1948. There were 41 new cases notified in 1947.

Of the 7 additional notifications during 1949, one occurred in a baby under one year, 3 in children (1 to 5 years), and 3 in young female adults (15 to 25 years). The importance of early sanatorium treatment for the tubercular patient, adequate housing conditions, preventive and hygienic measures for the other members of the family, especially children and young adults at risk of infection, need to be stressed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 349, as compared with 571 in 1948.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever declined in 1949, there being 39 cases in that year compared with 56 in 1948. This figure is interesting, as during 1949, only cases requiring hospital treatment on medical or social grounds (15 cases in 1949) were admitted to hospital. Previous to this year, nearly all cases (52 in 1948) were admitted to an isolation hospital.

This welcome decline was also seen in the incidence of Whooping Cough, from 171 cases in 1948 to 44 in 1949.

Measles also declined a little, to 215 cases in 1949 as compared with 300 in 1948 and 313 in 1947.

For the first time in the history of the Urban District there was no case of Diphtheria during the year.

As the percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria has increased, the number of cases of the disease has fallen rapidly of recent years.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, one in October and one in November. Both were fortunately of a mild type with no residual paralysis.

A case of imported Malaria occurred, and the patient was removed to hospital.

There was one case of Paratyphoid Fever, which, after weeks of hospital treatment, proved fatal. Investigation as to a possible source of infection proved negative. This was an isolated case.

One case of Food Poisoning caused by Salmonella organisms was notified after the patient had returned from a camping holiday. It was not possible to trace the source of infection, as all foods taken were either consumed or destroyed while away.

There were 3 cases of Sonne Dysentery. The first occurred in a 4-year-old girl at Bell's Close and was notified on December 7th, 1949. This case was treated in hospital and did not appear to have any connection with subsequent cases. A second case occurred at Throckley on December 12th, 1949, in a boy aged 6, and nine days later this child's grandmother, living at another address, was notified as a positive case. There was evidence of contact between these two cases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, immunisation came under the administration of the South Area Health Sub-committee in July, 1948. Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (children 0-5 years), at the schools (children 5-15 years), and by the general practitioners of the district. Special attention is given to reinforcing injections at suitable intervals.

It is stated (Medical Research Council Report 272, published March, 1950) that : " Unless the proportion of the immunised population is kept up to the 75 per cent. level, protection against epidemic Diphtheria cannot reasonably be assured. It is therefore of the utmost importance for

parents to realise that active immunisation in the first year of life and reinforcing doses of prophylactic in later years are just as necessary in the absence of Diphtheria epidemics as in their presence.”

The experience in this district and in the country generally seems to bear this out as far as can be seen at present.

In 1949 the number of children immunised at 1–5 years increased to 59 per cent. from 49 per cent., and that of the 5–15 years children remained at 98 per cent., making a total average percentage of 84 per cent. as against 83 per cent. in 1948.

Number of Children who Completed a Full Course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area during the Year, 1949.			Total Number of children who were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection.
Under 5.	Age at date of Final Injection. 5–15.	Total.	
324	45	369	275

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This service, now under the control of the Northumberland County Council, has a station at Newburn, which covers not only the Urban District but the adjacent parts of the South Area and works in conjunction with the Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Ponteland stations. There are six drivers under a driver-in-charge. Three new ambulances were brought into use in 1949.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This service is administered by the South Area Health Sub-committee of the County Council, and has been expanded considerably. Home Helps were supplied through the South Area Health Office in 45 cases (illness, confinement, or old age) between April to December, 1949.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

This service is now administered by the County Council. There are four Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, one at Throckley, one at Lemington, one at West Denton, and one at Westerhope. There are regular sessions for babies and children, expectant mothers, and dental treatment.

HOUSING.

At the end of the year 1949 there were 1,267 applicants for Council houses.

During the year, 120 new houses had been built by this Council and one privately. The total number of houses built by the Council since 1945 to December, 1949, was 528.

Eleven applicants with a case history of Tuberculosis were rehoused during 1949. The difficulty of the housing problem which has piled up during the war years requires no reiteration, but has to be tackled with all possible resource and energy. Already the beginnings of adverse trends in the incidence of Tuberculosis are noted, and the difficulties of "living in," on the one hand, and sharing one's home in the case of older people and their adult children and families, on the other, are manifold.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50 :

There were three burials under Section 50 of the above Act.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention—Section 47 :

No action was necessary under this section.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

The details under this section have been compiled by Mr. Corney, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

I wish to thank the Council, Health Committee, Clerk of the Council, Mr. Corney, and staff of the Health Department for their valuable help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary and Social Conditions

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	....	4,649
Registrar General's estimated population	....	....	....	....	....	21,540
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	....	....	....	....	....	6,240
Sum represented by Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	£426
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£108,395

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

			MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births (legitimate)	....	....	175	205	380
„ „ (illegitimate)	....	....	6	4	10
Still Births	....	....	4	5	9
Deaths	....	....	121	123	244
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	....	....	18.11
Still Births per 1,000 population	....	....	....	....	0.42
Death Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	....	....	11.32

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	....	30.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	....	....	30.8
Illegitimate infants	....	....	....	....	Nil.

Deaths.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	....	33
„ „ Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	1

Causes of Death in the Newburn Area, 1949.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	121	123	244
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ....	....	1	1
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ....	....	....	....
3. Scarlet Fever ....	....	....	....
4. Whooping Cough ....	....	....	....
5. Diphtheria ....	....	....	....
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	5	9
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	....	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases ....	....	....	....
9. Influenza	2	2	4
10. Measles ....	....	....	....
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis ....	....	....	....
12. Acute Infectious Lethargica ....	....	....	....
13. Cancer	21	12	33
14. Diabetes ....	....	2	2
15. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	11	25	36
16. Heart Diseases	30	34	64
17. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5	9
18. Bronchitis	9	14	23
19. Pneumonia	6	6	12
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	5	....	5
22. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	....	1
23. Appendicitis ....	....	....	....
24. Other Digestive Diseases	3	5	8
25. Nephritis	4	2	6
26. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis ....	....	....	....
27. Other Maternal Causes ....	....	....	....
28. Premature Birth	1	2	3
29. Congenital Malformation Birth Injuries			
Infantile Disease	6	1	7
30. Suicide	2	1	3
31. Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
32. Other Violent Causes	3	....	3
33. All Other Causes....	4	4	8

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

YEAR	BIRTHS			DEATHS	
	Newburn	England and Wales		Newburn	England and Wales
1928.....	19.41	—	.....	11.78	—
1929.....	15.58	16.9	.....	10.96	13.4
1930.....	16.91	16.9	.....	10.57	11.4
1931.....	16.78	16.4	.....	12.17	12.3
1932.....	15.48	15.9	.....	11.44	12.0
1933.....	16.92	15.0	.....	12.96	12.3
1934.....	15.03	15.4	.....	12.85	11.8
1935.....	17.69	15.3	.....	10.24	12.1
1936.....	16.20	15.4	.....	11.27	12.1
1937.....	15.83	15.5	.....	10.46	12.4
1938.....	17.19	15.7	.....	11.56	11.6
1939.....	16.75	15.5	.....	12.46	12.1
1940.....	15.27	15.1	.....	12.24	14.3
1941.....	17.22	15.7	.....	14.24	11.6
1942.....	20.07	16.3	.....	12.27	11.6
1943.....	19.85	17.0	.....	12.5	12.1
1944.....	21.29	18.1	.....	10.46	11.6
1945.....	19.69	16.5	.....	12.83	11.4
1946.....	21.14	19.6	.....	11.43	11.5
1947.....	23.27	21.0	.....	10.9	12.0
1948.....	19.62	18.3	.....	11.2	10.8
1949.....	14.86 18.11	16.7	.....	11.32	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

			Newburn		England and Wales
1938	....	....	57.0	.....	53
1939	..	...	77.84	.....	50
1940	....	...	42.48	.....	55
1941	....	....	90.6	.....	59
1942	....	....	71.61	.....	49
1943	....	....	49.84	.....	49
1944	....	....	56.51	.....	46
1945	....	....	48.52	.....	46
1946	....	....	53.63	.....	43
1947	....	....	43.48	.....	41
1948	....	....	28.64	.....	34
1949	....	....	30.8	.....	32

INFANT MORTALITY, 1941.
34 Deaths.

Neo-natal Deaths :

Prematurity	6
Congenital defects and atelectasis	4
Cranial hæmorrhage	1
Broncho pneumonia	1
Scarlet fever	1
	— 13

Broncho pneumonia and bronchitis....	13
Acute meningitis	1
T.B. meningitis	1
Gastro enteritis	1
Pink disease	1
Congenital defects	2
Marasmus	1
Fits	1
	— 21

TOTAL 34

INFANT MORTALITY, 1949.
12 Deaths.

Neo-natal Deaths :

Prematurity and debility from birth	5
Cranial hæmorrhage	2
Atelectasis and asphyxia	2
Broncho pneumonia	1
	— 10

Broncho pneumonia	1
Gastro enteritis	1
	— 2

TOTAL 12

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 15 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Walker Gate. This hospital is now controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological Reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Stool specimens for Sonne		
Dysentery	5	19
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	—	30
Throat swabs for Hæmolytic		
Streptococci	13	21
Specimens of sputum for		
Tuberculosis	17	38
Stool specimen for Paratyphoid ..	—	1
Swab and tissues for Staphylococcus		
Aureus	2	1
Throat swab for Vincent's Angina	—	1
Urine for Pus cells	—	2
Urine for Micrococci	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	38	113
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>151</u>	

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1949.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :

Total outbreaks	Nil	Total cases	Nil
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Outbreaks due to :

(a) Chemical poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella organisms	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :

Total outbreaks	Nil	Total cases	Nil
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Single cases :

AGENT IDENTIFIED	UNKNOWN CAUSE	TOTAL
Salmonella Thompson	—	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1949 Number of Cases—Civilians.

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and over		TOTAL		Hos- pital	Deaths
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Scarlet Fever	..	..	3	4	4	4	4	8	3	2	1	2	2	2	17	22	15	..
Whooping Cough	4	1	8	11	5	10	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	20	24	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Measles	3	3	40	33	33	46	23	31	1	1	1	..	..	..	101	114	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

DISEASE	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 and over		TOTAL		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia	2	2	4	1	7	3	1	9	4	30	11	6	6	
Dysentery	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..
Smallpox	
Acute Enc. Lethargica	
Paratyphoid	1	1	..	1	..	1	
Erysipelas	1	2	..	..	..	4	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
Malaria	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Food Poisoning	1	..	1	..	..	..

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

YEAR	Number of Cases of Diphtheria	Number of Deaths	Number of Children Immunised (given for years 1935-43). Later years expressed as percentage immunised of total child population
1935	28	Nil	32
1936	22	4	182
1937	20	Nil	209
1938	56	7	414
1939	5	Nil	422
1940	6	Nil	439
1941	43	3	1148
1942	49	2	2554
1943	104	3	3035
1944	118	6	65 per cent.
1945	21	2	80 per cent.
1946	11	....	82 per cent.
1947	9	....	83 per cent.
1948	2	....	83 per cent.
1949 ....	....	....	84 per cent.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS			NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 years	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...
5-15...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15-25...	...	...	4	6	2	1	...	1	...
25-35...	...	...	6	4	...	...	1	2	...
35-45...	...	...	2	2	1	...	2	1	...
45-55...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...
55-65...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age Unknown	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
TOTAL...	17	13	7	3	4	5	1	...
			30		10		9		1	
			40				10			

TABLE OF T.B. DEATHS (*for comparison*).

YEAR	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
1939....	15	2	17
1940....	11	5	16
1941....	13	4	17
1942....	12	2	14
1943....	14	3	17
1944....	12	1	13
1945....	7	4	11
1946....	12	4	16
1947....	15	2	17
1948....	12	2	14
1949....	9	1	10

TABLE OF T.B. NEW CASES (*for comparison*).

YEAR	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1939....	9	8	4	1	22
1940....	13	10	6	5	34
1941....	8	3	5	4	20
1942....	12	10	5	1	28
1943....	22	13	5	5	45
1944....	8	11	4	2	25
1945....	12	7	2	3	24
1946....	16	12	7	2	37
1947....	18	12	8	3	41
1948....	15	13	1	4	33
1949....	17	13	7	3	40

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1949

QUARTER ENDED	Number of Cases on Register at Commencement of Quarter		Number of Cases Notified for the First Time		Number of Cases Removed from Register		Number of Cases Remaining	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
March 31st, 1949—								
Males	89	67	2	1	3	2	88	66
Females	82	44	4	1	4	....	82	44
June 30th, 1949—								
Males	88	66	4	4	....	1	92	69
Females	82	44	1	....	2	....	81	44
September 30th, 1949—								
Males	92	69	1	1	....	....	93	70
Females	81	44	1	....	....	....	82	44
December 31st, 1949—								
Males	93	70	10	1	2	1	101	70
Females	82	44	7	2	....	....	89	46

Annual Report

of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1949

To Dr. Madge Hopper.

DEAR MADAM,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year ended December 31st, 1949.

Once again I have to report a change in the staff of the Department, Mr. Oxley resigning in June, 1949, to take up an appointment with Gosforth Urban District Council, and Mr. J. Hatton commencing duty here in September of that year.

Miss Snaith continues as clerk in the Department, and I would again record my thanks to her for the efficient way in which she has carried out her duties.

Changes in the work of the Department have again occurred.

In connection with supervision of milk supplies, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries became the Authority charged with all matters concerning the production of milk, the role of the Local Authority being reduced to that of controlling retail distribution.

Under the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Local Authority had a new duty imposed upon it in the "removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention" and "the burial or cremation of the dead in certain cases." As is shown in another part of the report, action had to be taken under this latter heading.

HOUSING.

As during 1948, it has been possible to have an increasing number of repairs carried out in order to maintain older houses in a reasonable state of fitness, but the difficulty, noted previously, experienced by the "small" landlord in carrying out necessary repairs due to their increased cost, has grown more acute. I regret it has not been found possible for the Central Department to allow some relaxation with regard to Clearance Area procedure, and we are still limited to closing sub-standard houses only, on their becoming vacant.

Details of housing work carried out are to be found on pages 22, 23, 24, and 25 of the report.

OVERCROWDING.

Inspections for overcrowding have been reduced to a minimum as this matter is taken care of automatically under the Council's "points" scheme for letting houses. The degree of overcrowding is recognised by an appropriate number of "points."

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and has at all times been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

All the houses in the area, with the exception of 13, have internal water supply, the occupants of these 13 houses drawing their supply from stand-pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The construction of a new main sewer at Westerhope, which was commenced in 1948, was completed during the year. Work was commenced on sewers on the Mount Pleasant site, Throckley, in connection with the new housing estate, surface water and sewerage being dealt with independently in this case.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of the year there were 6,705 water closets, 23 pail closets, and 41 privies in use in the district.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

This service was carried out by the Surveyor's Department until May, 1950, when it was transferred to the Health Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number and Nature of Inspections :

	VISITS
Housing	295
Overcrowding	6
Re-visits	776
Complaints	97
Miscellaneous	130
Infectious Disease....	136
Food Poisoning	8
Meat Inspection	38
Unsound Food	37
Food and Drugs Act	241
Shops Act	12
Factories Act	60
Cowsheds and Dairies	48
Milk Samples	59
Drainage	48
Insanitary Premises	28
Keeping of Animals	15
Nuisances	13
Rodent Control	43
Sanitary Accommodation....	8
Disinfestation	39
Moveable Dwellings	4
Water Samples	4
Smoke Abatement	2
	<hr/> 2,147
Rooms Disinfected	54
Pigs Inspected	51
	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,252

Defects Remedied :

W.C. provided	....	....	....	....	....	1
W.C. basins provided or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	12
W.C. seats provided or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	8
W.C. cistern repaired	....	....	....	....	....	19
W.C. structure repaired	....	....	....	....	....	71
W.C. cone joint repaired	....	....	....	....	....	3
W.C. flush-pipe repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1
Drains cleared	....	....	....	....	....	28
Drains repaired	....	....	....	....	....	6
Waste pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	....	24
Rain water pipes renewed	....	....	....	....	....	35
Eaves gutters, &c., repaired	....	....	....	....	....	64
Doors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	88
Windows overhauled	....	....	....	....	....	60
Walls repaired (plaster)	....	....	....	....	....	81
„ „ (brick)	....	....	....	....	....	22
Ceilings repaired	....	....	....	....	....	34
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	....	....	32
Yard surface repaired	....	....	....	....	....	19
Floors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	34
Dampness remedied	....	....	....	....	....	21
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	125
Burst water pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	....	20
Fireplaces repaired	....	....	....	....	....	24
Scullery bench renewed	....	....	....	....	....	11
Scullery sink provided	....	....	....	....	....	6
Inspection chamber provided	....	....	....	....	....	1
Kitchen range overhauled	....	....	....	....	....	10
Internal water supply provided	....	....	....	....	....	1
Gas boiler provided	....	....	....	....	....	1
Chimney stacks repaired	....	....	....	....	....	11
Premises cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	3
Gulley grates provided	....	....	....	....	....	2
Set-pot repaired	....	....	....	....	....	12
Handrail fixed	....	....	....	....	....	10
Taps repaired	....	....	....	....	....	14
Pail closet renewed	....	....	....	....	....	1
Nuisance remedied	....	....	....	....	....	2
Food store repaired	....	....	....	....	....	5

Statutory Notices served :

Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	3
„ 45, „ „ „ „	....	....	7
„ 75, „ „ „ „	....	....	7
„ 93, „ „ „ „	....	....	11
			<hr/>
			28

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR 1949.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent 	50	....	50
Temporary 	70	....	70
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—			
Permanent .... ....	....	1	1
Temporary .... ....	....	....	....

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 295
- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2
- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 212

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 191

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.... —

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners....							—

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)	....	....	....	—

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE	2
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HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20).

(a) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	—
(b) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	....	....	—

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1949.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	TOTAL
<i>Sanitary Conveniences :</i>			
Privies and privy ashpits abolished..	....	....	....
Privies and privy ashpits repaired..	....	....	....
Pail closets repaired	1	....	1
Water closets provided	122	....	122
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S. 47..	....	....	....
Sanitary bins provided	121	....	121
Sanitary bins renewed	24	7	31
<i>Drainage :</i>			
New drains constructed	121	....	121
Drains repaired or reconstructed....	34	....	34
Additional gullies provided ....	....	....	....
Old gullies replaced	2	....	2
Scullery sinks provided	6	....	6
Scullery waste pipes repaired	10	....	10
Scullery waste pipes trapped	14	....	14
Yards repaired or reconstructed	19	....	19
			Number of Houses
<i>Water Supply :</i>			
Sources closed or discontinued ....	....	2	2
New service provided—			
(a) By Local Authority ....	....	120	120
(b) By Private Owner ....	....	1	1
Number of dwelling houses supplied by—			
(a) Internal Tap ....	....	....	6,227
(b) Stand-pipe ....	....	....	13

RIVERS POLLUTION, 1949.

Cases detected	Nil
Remedied	Nil
S.D. Works provided	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1949 **(Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935)**

	Number of Inspections during Year	Number of Defects or Contraventions of By-laws	Number of Informal Notices Served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects	667	633	126	398	13	45	...
Defective Food Store	85	28	22	15	...	...	...
Dampness	116	63	19	26	...	...	...
Overcrowding	6	6	...	...	...	...	...
WATER SUPPLY							
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsatisfactory	93	47	18	37	...	...	...
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective	429	259	113	151	5	5	...
SANITARY							
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CONVENIENCES							
Unsatisfactory	308	162	57	93	7	9	...
Food Premises	241	72	30	54	...	...	...
Shops Act	12	1	1	...	...	...	...
Dairies	48	7	...	7	...	...	...
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans, &c.	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories and Workplaces	62	17	...	10	...	...	...
Keeping of Animals	15	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	89	36	15	24	8	7	...
Offensive Accumulations	13	6	...	6	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	3	3	...	3	...	...	...
TOTAL	2,191	1,340	401	824	33	66	...

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health, the four cinemas in the district have been periodically visited and conditions found to be generally satisfactory. Extra sanitary accommodation was provided in one cinema.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

As all meat exposed for sale in this area is slaughtered in Newcastle, we have no details of numbers of animals condemned as unfit for human food. Appended is a list of foods condemned and surrendered :—

Lamb	....	....	21 lb.	Meat Loaf	....	29 tins
Beef	....	....	216 lb.	Pickles and Red		
Milk	....	....	105 tins	Cabbage	....	91 jars
Peaches, Pineapple,				Peas and Beans	....	37 tins
Plums, Grapes,				Tomatoes	....	27 tins
Apricots, Bil-				Soup	....	5 tins
berries, Grape-				Mixed Vegetables	....	1 tin
fruit, Pears	....	19	tins	Orange Juice	....	2 tins
Pilchards, Mussels,				Spaghetti	....	2 tins
Crab, Crawfish,				Rabbit	....	2 tins
Sardines	....	55	tins	Christmas Pudding..	1	tin
Prunes	....	30	lb.	Bacon	....	2 lb.
Cheese	....	29	lb.	Scone and Cake		
Jellied Chicken	....	39½	lb.	Flour	....	340 packets
Dried Peas	....	137	lb.	Pudding Mixtures	....	40 packets
Marmalade	....	2	jars	Pies	....	19

The local Food Office supply us with information about the slaughter of “ Self-suppliers’ ” pigs, and wherever possible, these pigs are examined and if diseased the owner is advised accordingly.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1936, Section 6 (1) and (4). (As at 1st October, 1949).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	....	10
Approximate number of Cows kept	....	220

MILK REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Registered Dairies	....	8
Number of Registered Distributors	....	25

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

As in the previous year, a considerable amount of time was spent in inspecting food premises, 241 visits being made. Particular consideration was given to fried fish shops, and I am pleased to report that extensive improvements were effected in several cases, modern, non-absorbent materials being used to provide bright and easily cleaned internal surfaces.

Swabs were again taken from dishes, knives, forks, glasses, &c., used in Canteens, and results were satisfactory, no pathogenic organisms being found.

The question of formulating a Food Traders' Guild was brought before the Health Committee, but it was decided that the desired end could be achieved by fully implementing statutory powers already available, together with the adoption of proposed Model By-laws to be issued by the Ministry of Food. (These By-laws were adopted by the Council in July, 1950.)

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.—Part 1 of the Act :

1. *INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health.—*

PREMISES	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. ..	11	13	1	..
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	39	42	..	..
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	5	7	..	..
TOTAL	55	62	1	..

2. *Cases in which DEFECTS were found.—*

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2.) .. .. .	..	..
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .. .. .	..	..
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .. .. .	..	..
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) .. .. .	..	..
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—		
(a) Insufficient	5	4
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	11	5
(c) Not Separate for Sexes .. .. .	..	..
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	..	..
TOTAL	17	10

MILK SUPPLIES.

The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out :—

Methylene Blue Reduction Test :

Of the 22 samples produced in the area, 17 or 77·2 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 25 samples produced outside the area, 18 or 72 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 47 samples obtained and submitted for testing, 35 or 74·5 per cent. were satisfactory.

Tubercle Bacilli :

Twelve samples were submitted for examination for the presence of B. Tubercle, 11 were found to be satisfactory and one gave an inconclusive result.

It is gratifying to note an improvement in the keeping quality of milk during this year as compared with 1948, 74 per cent. of samples obtained being satisfactory, as against 70 per cent. in the previous year.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, together with 70 surface treatments, details of which are appended.

Sewers :

	First	Second
Number of manholes baited	31	—
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	3	—
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take	11	—
Number of manholes test-baited in conjunction with above and not included	128	159

Surface :

Council Property and Refuse Tips—

2,835 Baits (including Poison Baits).

538 Poison Baits.

336 Bodies.

Private and Business Premises—

1,716 Baits (including Poison Baits).

337 Poison Baits.

77 Bodies.

With the exception of an infestation in one factory, all the treatments carried out were of a comparatively minor character. This major infestation was successfully dealt with to the satisfaction of the factory management.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, &c.

Cases of bed bug infestation were very few, the presence of cockroaches being a much more prevalent condition. D.D.T. powder and liquid were again used with success.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year, the distribution of pamphlets obtained from the Central Council of Health Education, showing precautions to be taken in the event of an epidemic of Poliomyelitis, being a special feature of this work.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CORNEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

